WILLIAM VERICK, SBN 140972

1. This Complaint seeks civil penalties and an injunction to remedy the continuing

failure of defendants COST PLUS, INC.; SEARS ROEBUCK AND COMPANY; and DOES 1 through 100 inclusive (hereinafter "Defendants"), to give clear and reasonable warnings to those residents of California, who handle and cook with leaded aluminum cookware, that handling this cookware, and eating food that has been cooked in it, causes those residents to be exposed to lead and lead compounds, lead acetate, lead phosphate, and lead subacetate (hereinafter, collectively,

Deputy Clerk:

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTION AND CIVIL PENALTIES

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COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTION

"lead"). The types of products to which this Complaint pertains are those types listed in the Product List appended to the Proposition 65 60-Day Notice Letter that is attached to and incorporated by reference into this Complaint. Lead is known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and male and female reproductive toxicity. Defendants market leaded aluminum cookware. These products cause exposures to lead and lead compounds, which are chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.

- 2. Defendants are businesses that market and/or distribute leaded aluminum cookware. Defendants intend that residents of California handle and eat food that has been cooked in leaded aluminum cookware that Defendants market and/or distribute. When these products are handled and used in their normally intended manner, they expose people to lead. In spite of knowing that residents of California were and are being exposed to these chemicals when they handle and use leaded aluminum cookware. Defendants did not and do not provide clear and reasonable warnings that these products cause exposure to chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.
- 3. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 to compel Defendants to bring their business practices into compliance with section 25249.5 et seq. by providing a clear and reasonable warning to each individual who has been and who in the future may be exposed to the above mentioned toxic chemicals from the use of Defendants' products. Plaintiff seeks an order that defendants identify and locate each individual person who in the past has purchased leaded aluminum cookware and to provide to each such purchaser a clear and reasonable warning that the leaded aluminum cookware will cause exposures to chemicals known to cause birth defects.
- 4. In addition to injunctive relief, plaintiff seeks civil penalties to remedy the failure of Defendants to provide clear and reasonable warnings regarding exposure to chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION ("Mateel")

is a non-profit organization dedicated to, among other causes, the protection of the environment, promotion of human health, environmental education, and consumer rights. Mateel is based in Eureka, California, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Mateel is a "person" pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25118. Mateel brings this enforcement action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d). Residents of California are regularly exposed to lead and lead compounds from leaded aluminum cookware marketed by Defendants and are so exposed without a clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning.

- 6. Defendants are each a person doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code Section 25249.11. Defendants are businesses that manufacture, distribute, and/or market leaded aluminum cookware in California, including the City and County of San Francisco. Manufacture, distribution and/or marketing of these products in the City and County of San Francisco and/or to people who live in San Francisco, causes people to be exposed to lead and lead compounds while they are physically present in the City and County of San Francisco.
- 7. Mateel is unaware of the true names or capacities of the Defendants sued herein under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 100, inclusive. Defendants DOES 1 through 100 inclusive are therefore sued herein pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. Proc. §474. When Mateel learns their identities, it will amend the complaint.
- 8. Plaintiff brings this enforcement action against Defendants pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached hereto and incorporated by reference is a copy of a 60-day Notice letter dated June 27, 2006, which Mateel sent to California's Attorney General. Substantially identical letters were sent to every District Attorney in the state, and to the City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000. On that same day, Mateel sent identical 60-Day Notice letters to each defendant. Attached to the 60-Day Notice Letters sent to each defendant was a summary of Proposition 65 that was prepared by California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. In addition, each 60-Day Notice Letter plaintiff sent was accompanied by a Certificate of Service attesting to the service of the 60-Day Notice Letter on each entity which received it. Pursuant to California Health & Safety

Code Section 25249.7(d), a Certificate of Merit attesting to the reasonable and meritorious basis for the action was also sent with each 60-Day Notice Letter. Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificate of Merit was enclosed with the 60-Day Notice letter Mateel sent to the Attorney General.

9. Defendants are all businesses that employ more than ten people.

JURISDICTION

- 10. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7. California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 grants the Superior Court "original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other trial courts." Chapter 6.6 of the Health & Safety Code, which contains the statutes under which this action is brought, does not grant jurisdiction to any other trial court.
- 11. This Court also has jurisdiction over Defendants because they are businesses that have sufficient minimum contacts in California and within the City and County of San Francisco. Defendants intentionally availed themselves of the California and San Francisco County markets for leaded aluminum cookware. It is thus consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice for the San Francisco Superior Court to exercise jurisdiction over them.
- 12. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendants market their products in and around San Francisco and thus cause people to be exposed to lead and lead compounds while those people are physically present in San Francisco. Liability for Plaintiff's causes of action, or some parts thereof, has accordingly arisen in San Francisco during the times relevant to this Complaint and Plaintiff seeks civil penalties and forfeitures imposed by statutes.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Claim for Injunctive Relief)

- 13. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference into this First Cause of Action, as if specifically set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 12, inclusive.
- 14. The People of the State of California have declared by referendum under Proposition 65 (California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.) their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, and reproductive harm."

- 15. To effectuate this goal, Section 25249.6 of the Health and Safety Code mandates that persons who, in the course of doing business, knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects must first provide a clear and reasonable warning to such individual prior to the exposure.
- 16. Since at least July 27, 2003, Defendants have engaged in conduct that violates Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6 et seq. This conduct includes knowingly and intentionally exposing to the above mentioned toxic chemicals, those California residents who handle and eat food cooked in leaded aluminum cookware. The normally intended use of leaded aluminum cookware causes exposure to lead and lead compounds, which are chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. Defendants have not provided clear and reasonable warnings, within the meaning of Health & Safety Code Sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.
- 17. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants knew that the leaded aluminum cookware they marketed was causing exposures to lead and lead compounds. Defendants intended that residents of California handle and use leaded aluminum cookware in such ways as would lead to significant exposures to these chemicals.
- 18. By the above described acts, Defendants have violated Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 and are therefore subject to an injunction ordering them to stop violating Proposition 65 and requiring them to provide warnings to their past customers who purchased defendants' products without receiving a clear and reasonable warning.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Claim for Civil Penalties)

- 19. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference into this Second Cause of Action, as if specifically set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 18, inclusive.
- 20. By the above described acts, Defendants are liable and should be liable pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), for a civil penalty of \$2,500.00 per day for each individual exposed without proper warning to lead and lead compounds from the handling or use of Defendants' leaded aluminum cookware.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS, as follows:

- 1. Pursuant to the First Cause of Action, that all Defendants be enjoined, restrained, and ordered to comply with the provisions of Section 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety Code;
- 2. Pursuant to the Second Cause of Action, that Defendants be assessed a civil penalty in an amount equal to \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposed, in violation of Section 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety Code, to lead and lead compounds as the result of Defendants' marketing of leaded aluminum cookware;
- 3. That Defendants be ordered to identify and locate each individual who purchased leaded aluminum cookware and provide a warning to each such person that the leaded aluminum cookware the person purchased will expose that person to chemicals known to cause birth defects.
 - 4. For such other relief as this court deems just and proper.

Dated: October 4, 2006

KLAMATH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER-A

William Verick

Attorney for Plaintiff

Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation



July 27, 2006

EDWARD G. WEIL DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL P.O. BOX 70550 OAKLAND CA 94612-0550

Greetings:

This office and the Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation ("Mateel") hereby give you notice that the private businesses listed in the attached service list have been, are, and threaten to be in violation of Cal. Health & Safety Code §25249.6. This office and Mateel are both private enforcers of Proposition 65, both organizations may be reached at the below-listed address and telephone number, I may be considered a "responsible individual" at both organizations, and I may be contacted at the same address and telephone number. The above referenced violations occur when these businesses market aluminum cookware, such as pots and pans, the food contact surfaces of which contain lead. (hereinafter "leaded aluminum pots and pans"). Some examples of the products to which this notice pertains are those listed in the attached Product List. Though a specific model or SKU or product number is given as an example, this notice pertains to all variations of the specific type of product of which the named model is an example. Handling of, contact with, eating from, and eating food stored or cooked in leaded aluminum pots and pans exposes people to lead and lead compounds (hereinafter, collectively, "lead"). Lead leaches from the leaded aluminum pots and pans into the food stored or cooked in, or served from, the leaded aluminum pots and pans. The food is then consumed and the accompanying lead ingested. These exposures (and resulting violations) occur occupationally, environmentally, and as the result of the sale of consumer products and/or services. In occupational settings, the type of work that is done during which the above-referenced exposures occur is handling the leaded aluminum pots and pans, and eating food cooked in it, such as at catered office parties. These exposures occur via the dermal absorption, inhalation, ingestion, and subcutaneous routes. These violations have occurred every day since at least July 27, 2003, and will continue every day until reasonable warnings are given to those people exposed or until these businesses stop selling leaded aluminum pots and pans. These violations are alleged for occupational exposures as well as for consumer and environmental exposures. We do not, however, allege occupational exposure violations as to any of these products the listed businesses make outside of California, except as to workplaces the business itself maintains in California. Environmental exposure violations occur in every county of the State and occur both on and off the property of the aforementioned private businesses.

PRODUCT LIST

COST PLUS, INC.

IMUSA 24 CM CALDERO CAST ALUMINUM COOKWARE, ITEM # 370854

This product description pertains not only to the specific model of the products listed, but also for all units of all models of leaded aluminum cookware.

SEARS ROEBUCK AND COMPANY

IMUSA 14 QT. CAST ALUMINUM ROASTER, ITEM #00807698000

This product description pertains not only to the specific model of the products listed, but also for all units of all models of leaded aluminum cookware.

SERVICE LIST

EDWARD G, WEIL DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL P.O. BOX 70550 OAKLAND CA 94612-0550

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF OAKLAND 505 14TH ST 12TH FLOOR OAKLAND, CA 94612

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL ROOM 206 400 VAN NESS SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SACRAMENTO 980 9th Street, 10th Floor SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SAN JOSE 151 W. MISSION ST. SAN JOSE, CA 95110

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF LOS ANGELES 200 N. MAIN ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SAN DIEGO 202 C ST. FLOOR 3 SAN DIEGO. CA 92101

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 225 FALLON ST. #9 OAKLAND, CA 94612

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF ALPINE P.O. BOX 248 MARKLEEVILLE, CA 96120

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF AMADOR 108 COURT ST. SUITE 202 JACKSON, CA 95642

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF BUTTE 25 COUNTY CENTER DR. OROVILLE, CA 95965

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF CALAVERAS GOVERNMENT CENTER 891 MOUNTAIN RANCH ROAD SAN ANDREAS. CA95249

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF COLUSA 547 MARKET ST. COLUSA, CA 95932

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA P.O. BOX 670 MARTINEZ, CA 94553

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF DEL NORTE 450 H ST #171 CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF EL DORADO 515 MAIN ST. PLACERVILLE, CA 95667

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF FRESNO 2220 TULARE ST #1000 FRESNO, CA 93721 OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF GLENN P.O. BOX 430 WILLOWS, CA 95988

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT 825 5TH ST. EUREKA, CA 95501

OUNTY OF IMPERIAL COURTHOUSE, FLOOR 2 939 W. MAIN ST EL CENTRO. CA 92243

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF INYO P.O. DRAWER D INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KERN 1215 TRUXTUN AVE. FLOOR 4 BAKERSFIELD. CA 93301

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KINGS 1400 W. LACEY BLVD. HANFORD, CA 93230

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF LAKE 255 N. FORBES ST # 424 LAKEPORT, CA 95453

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF LASSEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 707 NEVADA ST. SUSANVILLE, CA 96130

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 18000 CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING 210 W. TEMPLE ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MADERA 209 W. YOSEMITE AVE. MADERA, CA 93637

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MARIN HALL OF JUSTICE #183 SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MARIPOSA P.O. BOX 748 MARIPOSA, CA 95338

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MENDOCINO 301 S. STATE ST. UKIAH, CA 95482

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MERCED 2222 M ST. MERCED, CA 95340

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MODOC P.O. BOX 1171 ALTURAS, CA 9610

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MONO P.O. BOX 617 BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MONTEREY 240 CHURCH ST. P.O. BOX 180 SALINAS, CA 93902

COUNTY OF NAPA 931 PARKWAY MALL P.O. BOX 720 NAPA, CA 94559-0720

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF NEVADA COURTHOUSE ANNEX NEVADA CITY, CA 95959

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF ORANGE 400 CIVIC CENTER DR WEST SANTA ANA, CA 92701

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF PLACER 11562 B AVE AUBURN, CA 95603-2687

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF PLUMAS P.O. BOX 10716 QUINCY, CA 95971

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE 4075 MAIN ST. RIVERSIDE, CA 92501

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO P.O. BOX 749 SACRAMENTO, CA 95804

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN BENITO 419 4TH ST HOLLISTER, CA 95023

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 316 MT. VIEW AVE. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0004

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO 101 W. BROADWAY #1300 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 850 BRYANT ST #322 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN 222 E. WEBER AVE #202 STOCKTON, CA 95202

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER #450 SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN MATEO HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA 1112 SANTA BARBARA ST. SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101-2008

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA 70 W. HEDDING ST. SAN JOSE, CA 95110

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ 701 OCEAN ST. #200 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SHASTA 1525 COURT ST. REDDING, CA 96001

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SIERRA P.O. BOX 457 DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936 OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SISKIYOU P.O. BOX 986 YREKA, CA 96097

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SOLANO 600 UNION AVE FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SONOMA 600 ADMINISTRATION DR. #212J SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF STANISLAUS 1100 I ST. #200 MODESTO, CA 95354

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SUTTER 1160 CIVIC CENTER BLVD. #A YUBA CITY, CA 95993

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TEHAMA P.O. BOX 519 REDBLUFF, CA 96080

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TRINITY P.O. BOX 310 WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TULARE COURTHOUSE #224 VISALIA. CA 93291

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE 2 S. GREEN ST. SONORA, CA 95370

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE c/o GREGORY BROSE D.D.A. 4245 MARKET ST. #205 VENTURA, CA 93003

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF YOLO 204 4TH ST P.O. BOX 1247 WOODLAND, CA 95695

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF YUBA 215 5TH ST. MARYSVILLE, CA 95901

BARRY J. FELD, CEO COST PLUS, INC. 200 4TH STREET OAKLAND, CA 94607

AYLWIN B. LEWIS, CEO SEARS, ROEBUCK AND COMPANY 3333 BEVERLY ROAD HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60179